

REMARKS

In a telephone interview in July, the Examiner agreed that claim 18 (and, consequently, all the other claims) probably would be allowable if claim 18 were amended to recite that the adhesive system is water-free and all of the free base is present in the matrix substantially in the absence of water. The Examiner, moreover, kindly agreed to telephone the undersigned to resolve anything which subsequently occurred to her which could impede allowance of the application.

Regarding WO 94/07468 (WO '468), it was pointed out in the telephone interview that this reference discloses the drug is dissolved in an aqueous phase of a hydrated inorganic silicate.

Regarding Chiang, it was pointed out in the telephone interview that Chiang discloses the use of N-0923, i.e., the hydrochloride salt, and not of the free base, and, moreover, that in Chiang's two phase matrix, which, in contract to a simple matrix, was said by Chiang to achieve a "targeted level" of skin flux, i.e., sufficient for effective transdermal delivery, N-0923 is contained in an aqueous phase.

The foregoing discussions of the references led to the aforementioned agreement. Of course, the underlying point which the amendments to claim 18 address is that the present invention does not rely upon an aqueous phase for the drug. Apart from that, some water may be present; for that reason, the

qualification "substantially" has been inserted. Sources of water may be, for example: atmospheric humidity from which water diffuses into the matrix; residual water in the free base resulting from its production from the hydrochloride salt by reaction with an alkali hydroxide; water resulting from the hygroscopicity of ethyl alcohol, which maybe used as a solvent in the production of the transdermal therapeutic system.

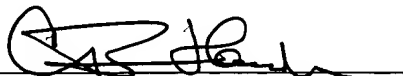
The amendments to the specification merely correct obvious informalities and, hence, do not contain new matter.

The Examiner is respectfully reminded to telephone the undersigned to resolve any additional issue which now occur to her.

Respectfully submitted,

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